

PART V.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

CHAPTER XXVI.

FAMINE ADMINISTRATION.

The calamities of the last few years have made the administration of districts desolated by famine an important part of the duty of Revenue Officers. This chapter contains a summary of the orders of Government of general application. It was prepared by Mr. James M. Campbell, C.S., and adopted by Government under the title of "A Hand-Book for Famine Officers."

The duties of an officer in relief charge of a famine district come under the five heads of—

- I.—Inspecting Villages ;
- II.—Controlling Relief Houses ;
- III.—Examining Relief Labourers ;
- IV.—Giving Casual Relief ; and
- V.—Carrying out Special Relief Measures.

I.—VILLAGE INSPECTION.

The objects of village inspection are—

That all people in the village in need of employment and able and willing to work should know where work is to be found and should be helped to get work.

That people unfit for work and able to move should be sent to a relief-house.

That people unfit for work and unable to move should be fed in the village.

That, except in very special cases, no one should receive State aid in his village who can work, or leave his house, or who has private means of support.

The village headman and village accountant, the relief-inspector, the relief mámlatdár, and the officer in relief charge of the district, are responsible for seeing that these objects are attained.

(a)—Village Officers.

Village officers are to be held personally responsible for any death from starvation* in their village. The headman and the accountant of a village must live in it and never be absent from it without leave. If any ordinary charge includes more villages than one man can be constantly examining, a deputy must be appointed over one or more of the villages.† The village officers should, as far as may be practicable and necessary, each day visit every house in the village, examine the people who are relieved in the village, inquire into fresh cases of sickness or destitution, and where there is any doubt as to the sufficiency of private means of support, either send such cases to a relief-house or feed them in the village. They should find out if any strangers are in the village and try to induce the poorer villagers to seek help on the public works. The village accountant should keep—

- I.—A list of all infirm persons and cripples.
- II.—A list of people fed in the village.
- III.—A statement of the amount spent on charitable relief in the village.
- IV.—A list of those who have left the village in search of work.

(b)—Relief Inspectors.

To ensure that village officers carry out the orders they have received and to help them in doubtful cases, a staff of relief-inspectors was appointed who were paid from Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 a month, and had each from six to ten villages under his charge. They had, on appointment, to furnish security for a sum of Rs. 50.

A relief-inspector should visit each village under his charge at least twice a week. On coming to a village he should satisfy himself that the village officers live in the village; that the special famine-registers are well kept; that the statement of money spent is correct; and that the balance of relief funds with the village officers is sufficient. He should examine the village from house to house, satisfy himself that the list of persons receiving relief is correct; and that each of them is receiving the proper subsistence allowance and with due regularity. He should see that no destitute stranger or sick person is unprovided for, and forward to a relief-house

* G. R. 126 C. W.—849, 16th Nov. 1876.

† G. R. 329 E.—1066, 8th May 1877.

such of the sick or infirm as can be moved. He should make a list of those willing to go to work, and choosing one of their number as spokesman, send them with a note to the public works overseer at the nearest centre of relief. If the distance is considerable, or the people are, apparently in extreme poverty or in reduced condition, the inspector should give them a note to the manager of the relief-house at the town to which they are going, asking him to feed them on the day of arrival. When the central station is distant more than one day's march, the inspector should give the spokesman a note and list of names addressed to the headman of some village on the line of march, telling him to supply the people named in the list with one day's ration of grain.

At each village the inspector should sign and date the account of charitable relief. Each day he should draw up a list of the villages he has visited, forwarding at the close of the week a copy of his diary to the relief-mámlatdár, in which he should notice any isolated cases of special difficulty and any change he may have observed in the general condition of the people. On the appointment of a new relief-inspector he should be supplied by the relief-mámlatdár with a copy of all orders relating to village inspection. The officer in relief charge should satisfy himself by personal examination that the new inspector understands his duties.

(c) — *Relief Mámlatdárs.*

The relief-mámlatdár is each week expected to visit twenty per cent. of the villages under his charge. He should in each case examine the registers, test the correctness of the numbers receiving charitable relief, and countersign the account. He should satisfy himself that the inspector is regular and thorough in his examination, and go round from house to house to see that there are no cases of unrelieved distress. He should inquire into the condition of the village officers, the village watchmen, messengers, and menials, and see that no difficulty stands in the way of persons who are willing to work. If persons come back from relief-work or from a relief-house, he should inquire into the cause and their means of subsistence. He should keep a daily record of work done, which, with the diaries of the relief-inspectors, he should forward weekly through the officer in relief charge to the Collector. In his diary the mámlatdár should mention in what villages he has found the village officers in an impoverished condition, where there is any large body of

destitute men without work, and where he has seen or anticipates any special form of distress.

(d)—*Officers in Relief Charge.*

The officer in relief charge of a district should arrange his villages into four classes :—

- I.—Villages free from distress.
- II.—Villages whose poor are employed on relief-works or supported in relief-houses, and where only a few cases of special distress remain for relief in the village itself.
- III.—Villages with a troublesome class of small land-holders or day labourers without means of support and unwilling to go to relief-works.
- IV.—Villages whose officers are poor, and where under the famine strain, the village system shows signs of breaking down.

On reaching a village, the officer in relief charge should first satisfy himself as to the general condition of the people, making sure that there are no cases of unrelieved distress. Special inquiry should be made as to the position and means of support of such as are found in a reduced condition, and orders passed as may seem necessary.

The relief officer, taking with him the headman and accountant, should next inspect the village from house to house. Strangers, persons come back sick from works or from relief-houses, and the poor should receive special attention. When the officer has satisfied himself as to the condition of the people, the special famine-registers and the ordinary death-statement should be examined. Inquiry should be made as to the migration from the village, the state of return emigrants, the presence or prospect of any special form of distress, and, when possible, the condition of the village officers. Besides these, the chief points for general inquiry are the efficiency of the village inspector, the number of persons receiving relief in the village, the number at relief-houses, the number on relief-works, the number come back from relief-houses and relief-works, why and when they came back, and their means of support. A comparison of the present death-rate with the ordinary mortality is important, and it is very necessary to know from what diseases and among what classes of villagers deaths are taking place. Corresponding details regard-

ing the sick are valuable, and full information as to the destitute unemployed is required.

Relief-inspectors should, at the close of each month, fill in and forward to the relief-mámlatdár a set of these statements, showing for every village under their charge the particulars collected at the time of his last visit.

The chief difficulties in the way of a successful system of village relief are: (i) the idle or disheartened poor who, though able to go to work, refuse to leave their villages; (ii) the village servants, watchmen, messengers, and menials; (iii) the sick and burdensome members of well-to-do families whose relations do not support them.

i.—Except in special cases, the first class must be dealt with strictly. Only those who are in danger of starving and cannot leave the village are to be fed in it, and of those who come back from the works to their villages, those only are to be fed who are unable to work.* At the same time the children of these people should receive special attention, and, when found to be reduced, should be fed by the village officers with rations of milk and rice. In such cases the children must receive cooked food from the headman of the village and eat their rations at his house.

ii.—When a relief-work is in progress near a village, the families of village watchmen, messengers, and menials may be exempted from the distance test. Where there is no relief-work close at hand, it may be necessary to find in the village some employment for the destitute of this class.†

iii.—Dependent members of well-to-do families, such as nursing-mothers with sickly infants and reduced children, whose relations neglect to give them sufficient nourishment, should, until they can be removed to a relief-house, be fed by the headman of the village. Special consideration should also be shown to persons come back sick from relief-works or from relief-houses. The longer distress lasts, and the higher the price of grain rises, the greater will be the necessity for freeing the able-bodied from the weight of their infirm and burdensome relations.

* G. R. 523 P., 18th September 1877.

† These would be special cases—G. R. 225 E.—774, 7th April 1877; 83 P., 18th June 1877; 167 P., 4th July 1877; and 239 P., 18th July 1877.

II.—RELIEF-HOUSES.

Relief-houses are of two kinds, central and branch. Branch-houses are under the charge of clerks, managed by the relief-mám-latdár, and inspected by the officer in relief charge of the district. The central-house, generally established in some town where an efficient relief committee can be formed, is controlled by the officer in relief charge. The chief difference is that, to the branch-houses only infirm persons are sent; while to the central-house a variety of applicants are forwarded to be arranged into classes—the able-bodied despatched to public works, the weakly to civil works, and those unfit for employment received into the relief-house.

Each relief-house contains two sections, one for the destitute and one for the sick.

A.—THE DESTITUTE.

The destitute inmates of relief-houses belong to four classes:—

- 1.—Ordinary cases: the aged, crippled and infirm;
- 2.—Special cases: suffering children, and mothers of sickly infants;
- 3.—Temporary cases: able-bodied persons in a reduced state;
- 4.—Deserted and orphan children.

In examining a relief-house the inspecting officer should see that the inmates belonging to each of these classes are marked by a special badge.* That all who are able to work have some light task set them, and that those who will not work are punished.† That, where no regular dwellings are available, sheds have been built.‡ That for each person a roll of matting to sleep on, a blanket, and, if necessary, some clothing have been provided. That the occupants of each shed are held responsible for keeping their quarters clean, and that every morning the ground near the sheds is swept. That latrine arrangements are enforced, those able to move being sent to trenches dug at some distance from their quarters, and the infirm and the children having a place near the relief-

* This mark, a metal plate or ticket worn round the neck, should show to what class the wearer belongs, his name, his number, and the date on which he entered the relief-house.

† The best kinds of work are, for the comparatively strong, grain grinding; for the rest, yarn spinning, carrying water, and gathering firewood, sweeping and levelling the ground near the relief-house. The best form of punishment for those able but unwilling to work is, so long as they refuse, to reduce their daily allowance of food.

‡ Details of the best style of relief-huts are given in G. M. 946F, 19th March 1877, and 51P., 12th June 1877.

sheds set apart for their use. That this place is kept carefully swept, and the sweepings removed or buried. That the orphan and deserted children are well housed and clothed, that some one has been made specially responsible for their condition, and that those of them that can are made to work.

When the inspecting officer has satisfied himself that the orders for shelter and sanitation are carried out, he should next inquire into the arrangements for distributing food.

The work of feeding comes under four heads :—

- (a)—Feeding the ordinary inmates ;
- (b)—Feeding the reduced children and mothers of sickly infants ;
- (c)—Feeding the orphans ; and
- (d)—Feeding fresh applicants.

(a) Each day when the regular inmates come together to be fed, the register roll should be carefully checked. The enclosure must be so guarded that no one can enter except through the gate. Men, women, and children, as they enter, should be set in separate rows. When all are present, the inspecting officer should examine them one by one. Those who seem fit for work should be picked out,* and the names of any whose condition is extremely reduced should be entered among the cases for special treatment. Inquiry should occasionally be made from the people what allowance of food they receive, and the truth of any complaint should be tested. When the food is brought in for distribution, a few cakes picked at random from each basket should be weighed, and the soup should be examined to see that it is hot and well cooked. Each person should be supplied with an earthen bowl or plate, and care should be taken that the food is fairly and quickly served. At the time of distribution strict order should be enforced, and any attempt by clamour, shifting of place, or concealment of bread to gain more than one ration should be punished by reducing the allowance, or, if necessary, by expulsion. If the numbers are large, the children should be fed separately, and, except in unusual circumstances, it will be found advisable to respect caste feelings, and feed members of the low castes by themselves.

* "If they refuse to go, the relief-officer must be firm with them. If they quit work and wander about, the relief-officer must be prepared for their relapsing into debility. When they have thus relapsed they must of necessity be taken back to relief. Still no effort should be spared to avoid this result and to make them work."—G. R. 523P., 16th September 1877.

(b) In addition to the ordinary meal which they share with the other inmates of the relief-house, children in a reduced condition and nursing mothers with sickly infants receive in the morning a breakfast of milk and rice.* Here care should be taken that all who are fed are proper subjects for special treatment; that none obtain a share whose names are not entered in the list; that the allowance to each is in quantity and quality what is laid down by Government. The inspecting officer should, in some cases chosen at random, ask the people what allowance they generally receive; and in the case of any children whose condition does not seem to improve under their parent's charge, arrangements should be made to ensure that they actually eat the whole of their allowance. Care should also be taken that these children have sufficient clothing.

(c) Of the deserted and orphan children, those in good health should be fed with the ordinary inmates. The sickly and reduced should share in the special extra meal.

(d) New comers belong to two classes: (a) those to whom cooked food, and (b) those to whom uncooked food, should be supplied. Under the first class come persons sent from villages, or who have themselves reached the relief-house in a state too reduced for work. As a rule, fresh applicants of this class gather round the door of the relief-house at the time of the distribution of food. These should, as they come, be made to sit down in separate rows, one for those with, the other for those without, written orders for admission. After the work of distribution is over the new arrivals should be examined, and those who seem to require it received into the relief-house and fed.

Those to whom uncooked food should be supplied are either needy travellers, or persons in search of employment, who, on account of the distance they have come, or because of some unavoidable delay in finding them work, have earned a day's subsistence allowance.

B.—THE SICK.

At all relief-houses medical aid is wanted. At the branch-houses only a native practitioner may be available. But for the central relief-house trained medical assistance should be obtained. In inquiring into the provision for the sick the chief points for examination are: that the accommodation is sufficient, and, if it consists of

* The scale is laid down in G. R. 393E.—1280, 31st May 1877.

specially built sheds, that they are on the plan approved by Government.* That besides the general hospital shed, distinct accommodation is provided for cases of cholera, small-pox, and leprosy, and for lying-in women. In each shed the inspecting officer should satisfy himself that everything is kept clean, that the patients have sufficient clothing and food, and that suitable arrangements are made for burial.

As a check on the working of relief-houses, weekly reports should be submitted to the district relief officer. These should show the numbers relieved, the cost, and the number of deaths in the relief-house. The relief-mámlatdár for the branch-houses and the committee or manager for the central-house must submit estimates of probable expenditure sufficiently in advance to enable the officer in relief charge to obtain the necessary funds from the Collector. The accounts of the relief-house must be regularly audited.

At an early stage officers were warned that the longer distress lasted the greater would be the number of persons wandering about in a dangerously emaciated condition. The following instructions† were afterwards issued :—

Government know that the sad condition of many of these poor people sometimes arises from the habit which some have of staying at home in penury, preferring that to any attempt at honest labour; from the tendency of others to wander about begging for what little they can get; from the return to their native villages of those who had emigrated to distant localities and had failed in bettering themselves; from the fault of some who had left relief works refusing to perform their tasks, or who after recovering strength on gratuitous relief had declined to go to work when ordered; and from the helplessness of some who are too infirm to leave their homes or their beds. Some of these cases demand from the officers the exercise of firmness and patience, others the exercise of humane solicitude. To those who are perishing from no fault of their own, Government have accepted the responsibility of affording prompt aid so soon as the necessity of each individual becomes known. To those who are perishing from their own fault, Government have afforded such aid as was necessary to save their lives; without absolutely accepting the responsibility of preserving every one from the consequences of

* G. R. 946F., 19th May 1877, and 51P., 12th June 1877.

† G. R. 523P., Sept. 8, 1877.

his own folly or misconduct. In every class of cases officers must do their utmost to prevent death from want of food though, under the circumstances of the distressed districts, their efforts cannot be perfectly and uniformly successful.

III.—RELIEF LABOURERS.

Labourers on relief-works belong to two classes,* the able-bodied and the non-able-bodied. The first are employed on public works, the second on civil works. Besides the rate of pay, the chief point of difference in the treatment of the two classes is, that from the able-bodied task and distance tests are enforced, while from the non-able-bodied they are exacted only to a very small extent.

(a)—*The Able-bodied.*

It is the object of an officer in relief charge of a district that, of the people requiring relief, as large a proportion as possible should be employed on the public works. The public works officers are bound to take on all people sent to them as far as the capabilities of the work allow.† But, except the weaker members of a strong family, only able-bodied men and women should be sent to the public works. Arrangements should be made to have the infirm members of families, who persist in accompanying their relations to the works, unstered and paid separately.

To help able-bodied applicants to find relief on the public works, village inspectors, the relief mamlatdar, the managers of relief-houses, or the officer in relief charge of the district give those requiring help a note to a public works overseer. At one or more central points in each sub-division, if possible, where there is a relief-house, an overseer, or some one able to act for him, is always ready to receive able-bodied applicants, and draft them on to the public works. Until his name has been recorded by the overseer, if he is in actual want of food, or if he has come more than ten miles from his village, the applicant should be fed at the relief-house.‡ As soon as the overseer gives him a letter to a subordinate in charge of a section of a public work, the applicant is in the position of a person employed on the works, and if sent more than ten miles receives, on reaching his destination, a day's pay.

* G. R. 206 U. W.—869, Nov. 21, 1876, and 112 E.—392, Feb. 17, 1877.

† G. R. 225 E.—774, April 7, 1877.

‡ G. R. 139 E.—485, Feb. 28, 1877; and for Sunday arrivals, G. R. 89 E.—1066, Dec. 19, 1876.

In inspecting gangs of able-bodied labourers on a relief work, the chief points for inquiry are: their condition, their pay, their work, their clothing, their accommodation, the arrangements for the sick, the arrangements for those who leave the work, and the number of deaths. In inspecting the people, all the workers should be arranged in rows, men, women, and children separate. The labourers in each row should be carefully examined one by one; and special care taken in the case of nursing-mothers, infants and children. All who seem sickly or reduced should be picked out, and inquiry made as to the length of time they have been on the works, and the existence of any special cause for their unsatisfactory state.

If medical supervision is not available on the works, the reduced and sickly should be sent into the nearest relief-house as temporary inmates, or to some non-able-bodied gang on light labour near a relief-house. If medical help is available, accommodation should be provided for the sick and the reduced, in a hospital shed near the dwelling sheds of the other workers.* The inspecting officer should find out if there are any cases where clothes are urgently wanted, and provide what is necessary, out of his discretionary allowance.† Both by inquiry from the workers and the clerks, the inspecting officer should satisfy himself that the proper amount of pay is regularly received and that there is some sufficient arrangement for helping a destitute-new comer to tide over the days before his first pay falls due.‡

* G. R. 16C. W.—21, Jan. 5, 1877; 99E.—349, Feb. 13, 1877: 202E.—709, March 31, 1877; 253E.—837, April 14, 1877; 260E.—852, April 16, 1877; and 292E.—942, April 24, 1877.

† G. R. 1806, June 30, 1877.

‡ The orders about pay are: G. R. 166C. W.—792, Nov. 4, 1876, a man to have two annas a day, a woman one and a half annas, and a boy or girl fit for work one anna; G. R. 186C. W.—827, Nov. 15, 1876, when a rupee fetches less than 16 pounds of grain the rate of pay rises so as to give a man one pound of grain and one anna, a woman one pound of grain and one half anna, and a boy or girl one pound of grain; G. R. 268C. W.—1038, Dec. 13, 1876, applying the sliding wage scale to the case of grain cheaper than 18 pounds the rupee: G. R. 89E.—1066, Dec. 13, 1876, stopping Sunday work and wages; G. R. 327C. W.—1142, Dec. 29, 1876, defining 'grain' to mean the medium quality of the cheapest variety; G. R. 33E.—103, Jan. 19, 1877, reducing the pay of non-able-bodied or civil agency labourers for a man to the price of one pound and half an anna, for a woman to the price of one pound and one quarter anna, and for a boy or girl to either the price of three-quarters of a pound or the price of a half pound and one-quarter anna; G. M. 546E., March 17, 1877, fractions of a pound to be given in the labourer's favour; G. R. 56P., June 13, 1877, when work is stopped by rain, public works labourers to be paid non-able-bodied or civil agency rates; G. R. 190P., July 8, 1877, and

The inspecting officer should next inquire how far the Government orders about the distance and the task tests are carried out. He should, in a percentage of cases, find out from what villages the people at work have come, and satisfy himself that, unless under special circumstances, the distance test has been enforced.* He should inquire how far the workers succeed in doing their task. If it is enforced by fines, he must see that the fines do not reduce the rates of pay permanently below a bare subsistence allowance.†

The camps provided for the labourers should be examined, and the officer should satisfy himself that the orders as to place, cleanliness, and form of hut have been carried out.‡ If it contains any sick persons, they should be placed in the separate hospital shed if medical assistance is available, otherwise arrangements should be made for having the patients sent to their homes or to a relief-house.§ The number of persons who have recently left the work, and the cause of their leaving should be ascertained, and the arrangements for giving the necessary information to the civil authorities inquired into. A note should be made of the number of deaths that have occurred on the works in the fortnight before inspection.

As soon as good and favourable rain has fallen the officer in famine charge should take steps to reduce as far as possible the

317P., Aug. 10, 1877, when the rupee fetches less than nine pounds, on all relief-works an equivalent to be given for the Sunday wage. As regards children under seven years of age, G. R. 312C. W.—1116, Dec. 26, 1876, laid down that they were to be mustered on a separate roll and paid one-quarter anna a day; and G. R. 387E.—1260, May 20, 1877, and 383P., Aug. 23, 1876, that when the rupee fetched less than 10 pounds they might be paid the price of one-quarter of a pound. As regards subsistence allowance or *batta* G. R. 4C. W.—8, Jan. 3, 1877, 123E.—413, Feb. 20, 1877, and 120E.—438, Feb. 23, 1877, provided that labourers sent from one work to another should receive one day's pay; and G. R. 139E.—485, Feb. 28, 1877, ruled that this allowance was not to be paid till the labourers reached the new work and for no distance of less than ten miles.

* The distance test may (G. R. 225E.—774, April 7, 1877) be relaxed in certain cases. This concession is sometimes of value in the case of the families of village servants and others who cannot well leave their village.

† G. R. 150E.—546, March 10, 1877. In the event of workmen failing to finish their task the orders are: (1) that the able-bodied should be fined to the extent of their shortcomings even though the effect may be to reduce their wages below civil agency rates; (2) that the non-able-bodied should not be paid less than civil agency rates, but that every effort should be made to exact their proper tasks from them; (3) that the able-bodied reduced by short payments to be non-able-bodied are not to receive less than civil agency rates—G. R. 410P. Aug. 28, 1877.

‡ G. R. 237C. W.—937, Dec. 1, 1876, G. R. 946F., May 19, 1877.

§ G. R. 357E.—1159, May 18, 1877.

numbers employed on relief works. The orders on this point are—

1st—The gangs on each work should be carefully inspected by the officer in relief charge, the registers examined, and all holders or sub-holders of land, who may be in good physical condition, relegated to their villages, and told that they should now betake themselves, as in ordinary years, to the cultivation of their fields.

2nd—The class of agricultural labourers should be similarly examined and sent to their villages to assist the landholders as in ordinary years; for unless labour be available, the landholders will be placed in difficulties, and their field operations materially impeded.

3rd—It should be explained to all that at this season of the year Government can neither carry on the works in progress, nor open fresh ones, and that it is not for the good of the people that Government should do so; that during this season of difficulty Government have aided people who otherwise could not have found subsistence, but that as the drought has passed away, the people can, and must now, exert themselves in their own behalf, and that the remaining works will therefore be very shortly entirely closed.

4th—That Government will not give any general agricultural advances, but only afford assistance in special cases, and on good security; and that for such credit as they may need, and would ordinarily require, the people must look to the usual sources.

5th—That it will shortly be necessary, as the people who are not ordinary labourers leave the works, and as the latter, if kept open, gradually assume the character of ordinary public works, to raise the tasks to the usual standard, and to cease to pay wages when tasks are not performed.*

(b)—*The Non-able-bodied.*

Non-able-bodied or civil agency workers are the less capable and older men and women and those unfit for ordinary work.† These should be sent to works where wages are paid at civil agency rates or, if necessary, employed on some light work near a relief-house. Here they can, in most cases, find good shelter, and those who require it can receive special treatment.

* G. R. 58P., June 20, 1877; G. R. 133P. and 136P., June 26, 1877; 552P., Sept. 24, 1877; and 618P., Oct. 18, 1877.

† G. R. 206C. W.—569, Nov. 21, 1876; and 112E.—392, Feb. 17, 1877.

In inspecting a gang of non-able-bodied workers, the same points should be attended to as in inspecting a gang of able-bodied workers.

The inspecting officer should have the people drawn up in lines, the men, the women, and the children separate. The individuals in each gang should be examined one by one; and from among them both the able-bodied and the reduced and sickly should be picked out. For the heavier parts of a work, the digging or loosening of earth and stones, a certain proportion of able-bodied labourers is required. Cases in excess of this number, except those for some special reason allowed to rank with the non-able-bodied, should, after next pay day, be transferred to a public works gang. Reduced children and nursing-mothers with sickly infants should, as a rule, be transferred to a relief-house or to the special civil gang at work close to the relief-house. In exceptional cases, as when a nursing-mother refuses to go to a relief-house, the officers of the village where the work is in progress, should give daily a meal of rice and milk in addition to the regular pay. Where large numbers of non-able-bodied labourers are collected at a relief centre, parents with reduced children or sickly infants should be set to some light work as near as possible to the relief-house. These special cases should form a gang by themselves, which should be most carefully watched and placed under the charge of a special member of the relief-house establishment. In addition to their pay, the sickly children and nursing-mothers should receive every morning on the works rations of rice and milk. Arrangements must be made that each child eats its ration, that the children are kept clean and have a sufficient amount of clothing; when parents seem careless and the children do not improve in condition, the money-allowance should be stopped, and cooked food given to the children twice instead of once a day.

The inspecting officer should satisfy himself by asking the clerks and a certain number of the workers that wage payments are made at the proper rates and regularly. He should see that arrangements are in force that destitute new comers should, until the first pay day, receive, in addition to their money wages, a daily ration of food or grain either from the village officer or from the relief-house.

The outturn of work should be examined, and inquiry made as to how far a task is enforced by fining or other punishment.

Necessary clothing should be supplied.

The sheds for the children and their nurses should be examined, and the places where the workers sleep in the village visited. If special accommodation is required, the Government orders about hutting should, as far as possible, be carried out.

Inquiry should be made as to the arrangements in cases of sickness. When no medical attendance is available, the sick should be carried either to their own village or to a relief-house.

When any one leaves the work, his name, the name of his village, and the cause of his leaving the work are to be sent to the officer in relief charge.*

IV.—CASUAL RELIEF.

From his discretionary allowance, an officer in relief charge of a district is expected, by gifts of money, to meet special cases of distress. Before a regular system of village inspection and of relief-houses is introduced, opportunities for giving alms may be not uncommon. But afterwards, except under very unusual circumstances, the need for casual relief almost entirely ceases.

V.—SPECIAL MEASURES.

The special measures of relief entrusted to officers in charge of districts are : the giving of money advances to cultivators for the purchase of cattle and seed, and of advances of yarn to weavers. Special provision has also, in some cases, been found necessary for helping the class of small grain-dealers with money advances, for importing fodder, and for supporting return emigrants on their way to their homes.†

PROGRESS REPORTS.

While the famine pressure lasts, officers in charge of districts should submit to their Collector weekly or fortnightly progress reports. These should contain firstly a review of the state of their charge including such information as is available regarding the weather, the crops, the progress of field-work, the price of fodder and of grain, and the importation of grain, and should show secondly the amount of personal inspection, the state of the funds at the officer's disposal, and the working of special relief measures.

* Orders regarding non-able-bodied labourers are, in most cases, included in the Government Resolutions quoted above under the head of 'The Able-bodied.'

† G. R. 3296, May 24, 1877; 320A.—1232, May 26, 1877; 99P., June 21, 1877; and 139P., June 30, 1877; as to weavers G. R. 300E.—965, April 28, 1877, and 348E.—1119, May 12, 1877; and as to advances to grain dealers, G. R. 313A.—1191, May 22, 1877.

Under the head of inspection comes the personal examination of villages, of relief-houses, and of relief-labourers. As regards villages, the report should state how far the visits of the relief-mámlatdárs and of the village inspectors have been found regular and their examination thorough. As to relief-houses the report should contain for each house a statement of the number of inmates during the week, of the cost, and of the number of deaths. The names of the relief-houses visited and the results of the inspection should be given. The examination of relief-workers includes the inspection of the able-bodied or public and of the non-able-bodied or civil agency workers. In each case details should be furnished of the gangs of labourers examined and of their condition. Any failure in the arrangements for paying wages, or in the provision for the sick or the reduced, should be specially brought to notice.

A balance sheet should be drawn up, giving on the one hand details of the sums received from the Collector, and on the other the advances made to the relief-mámlatdár and the managers of central relief-houses, the amount spent by the officer himself in casual relief, and the actual balance in hand. As regards money advances and other special forms of relief, the efforts made, the difficulties in the way of carrying out the measures, and the results should be noticed.

In conclusion, the information regarding the general condition of the people should be summarized, any fresh difficulties experienced or anticipated should be brought to notice, and suggestions offered as to the best way of meeting them.